

The Status Report

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October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month



Did you know...?

In Fiscal Year 2006, the statewide Domestic Violence Hotline SafeLink answered 21,637 domestic violence calls.¹

Between October 2005 and September 2006, there were 19 incidents of domestic violence homicide in Massachusetts, resulting in the deaths of 13 women, 7 men and 3 children.²

Every day, at least three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in this country.³

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) and domestic violence shelters and advocacy centers around the state will be working all month long to make you aware of haunting statistics just like these. Events and activities will be held throughout the month to educate the public about how to recognize a domestic violence situation in a friend, relative or even yourself and how to safely get involved and get help. Events include vigils to remember the lives of the dozens of Massachusetts domestic violence-related homicide victims, family-friendly rallies, educational seminars and trainings, book signings, fundraising galas, art shows and more.

David Adams, co-director of Emerge and author of "Why Do They Kill? Men Who Murder Their Intimate Partners" will be making several appearances throughout the month in support of his book and the programs of Emerge. The official book release event will be held at Minz Levin Law Office in Boston on October 2nd.

The YWCA of Greater Lawrence has published an extensive calendar of events and activities it will be hosting in recognition of DVAM which includes cell phone drives, a display of the Clothesline Project, and a Batterer's Intervention Certificate Program Certification Program. In conjunction with the *National Week Without Violence* the YWCA will focus attention on practical, substantial non-violent alternatives day-by-day. For further information please contact Vilma Lora, Director of Women's Services, at (978) 687-0331.

Organizations across the Commonwealth have worked diligently to put together a comprehensive schedule of educational and entertaining activities for people of all ages. We have listed just a few of these events on page 5 of this newsletter, however you can view a full list of events and activities going on throughout the state in conjunction with DVAM at www.janedoe.org.

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¹ Jane Doe, Inc.

² Research Department, Field Services Division, Office of the Commissioner of Probation, Boston, MA

³ Rennison and Welchans, 2000

Executive Director's Corner

Women, know your power.

Those were the words of advice that the first female Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi offered last week to the many women assembled in her honor at former Ambassador Swanee Hunt's home in Cambridge. Titled "Gifted Women", the program was convened to encourage women to actively engage in the political process – to run, to vote, to write checks, to volunteer on campaigns, and to lead.

Pelosi and other speakers pointed out the gender differences that continue to exist in politics – how men readily run for office, prepared or not, while women hesitate and doubt themselves and their abilities. Also discussed was the long outdated belief that a woman's place is not in politics.

"Until women have a seat at the political table, their voices will not truly be heard and their issues won't be addressed," speakers noted.

Participants were encouraged to bring other women along – to talk to them about issues, the importance of exercising their vote, and how the political process impacts their lives.

Among those gathered, many of which had paid quite a bit to be there, were a number of young women – students of both the Women in Politics and Public Policy programs at Harvard University and UMASS Boston. They were thrilled to be included and were like sponges soaking up all the day had to offer. We can only hope as more and more attention is paid and efforts are directed to the issue of women's political participation, that today's younger generation will emerge at a much higher level going forward. And that we will all see the day when all elected and appointed bodies achieve gender parity.



Linda Brantley
Executive Director, MCSW

Legislative Corner

The MCSW is supporting several bills this session, two of which are scheduled for hearings this week, *An Act Relative to Establishing a Campus Rape and Sexual Assault Prevention Advisory Council (S737)* and *An Act Supporting Strong Families by Providing Paid Family and Medical Leave, Increasing Tax Deductions, and Establishing a Work Family Council (S114)*.

Senate Bill 737, sponsored by Senator Pamela Resor, seeks to establish a Campus Rape and Sexual Assault Prevention Advisory Council which would assist campus groups supporting rape and sexual assault victims. Testimony will be heard by the Joint Committee on Higher Education in Room A-2 at the State House on Tuesday, October 2nd beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Senate Bill 114, sponsored by Senator Karen Spilka, seeks to provide job protected leave for eligible employees to recover from their own serious illness or injury, to care for a seriously ill child, spouse, parent, newborn, newly adopted, or foster child. It would also offer wage replacement and ensure that workers receive 100% of their wages up to a cap of \$750.00 a week during the job protected leave. Testimony for Senate Bill 114 will be heard by Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities and the Joint Committee on Labor & Workforce Development in Gardner Auditorium at the State House on Wednesday, October 3rd beginning at 10:30 a.m.

The Commission encourages written or verbal testimony on behalf of these important pieces of legislation. For additional information contact Outreach Coordinator Jill Ashton at 617-626-6525 or jill.ashton@state.ma.us.

Commissioner Corner: Officers Elected

During September's full Commission meeting the Commission held elections for the executive offices of Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary for Fiscal Year 2008.

Commissioner Marianne C. Fleckner (Westford) will serve as Chair of the Commission leading the charge against the pay gap and other disparities on which the Commission focuses.

Assisting Commissioner Fleckner and the MCSW in tackling the myriad challenges ahead in FY08 will be Commissioner Gloria Coney (Roxbury) who was elected Vice Chair.

Commissioner Greer Swiston (West Newton) was reelected to the position of Treasurer while Commissioner Catherine Greene, Esq. (Brighton) was elected as Secretary.

MCSW Uses Networking Sites as Tool



In an effort to engage a younger group of women in Massachusetts, the MCSW has ventured into the worlds of MySpace and Facebook.

Now young women with profiles on either of these popular networking sites can connect with the MCSW in a more hip and interactive way.

The MCSW will use these sites as tools for publicizing upcoming events, hearings and meetings that are open to the public.

Please search for "Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women" at www.facebook.com and visit us at www.myspace.com/mcsw1998 on MySpace and add us as a friend to keep updated on what's up with the MCSW.



Get SMART with new Wage Project Initiative

The Wage Project, an MCSW partner in the fight for wage equality, has launched an exciting new initiative geared towards educating women on how to receive the salary they deserve.

There are several prongs to the new initiative, all geared towards women at various stages of their careers. **Start Smart** will focus on college-aged women and work to hone their negotiation skills so they will start out in the workforce on the same foot financially as their male counter-parts. **Return Smart** will train women reentering the workforce after an absence to evaluate their self worth and to effectively negotiate their wage. **Professionally Smart** will target women working in specific fields such as librarians, lawyers, nurses, and more and teach them how to use their advanced educations as a tool for negotiating higher wages. And finally, **Work Smart** workshops will educate women in the workforce about how best to handle gender discrimination in the workplace and how to negotiate the raise and promotion they deserve.

Eleven colleges and universities along the East Coast have signed on to pilot the Start Smart program. For a complete list of dates, times and locations please see inset to the right. For more information on these programs please visit www.wageproject.org.

In addition to the Smart programs, the Wage Project has collaborated with Salary.com to produce a salary calculator geared specifically towards women. To find out today if you're getting paid what you're worth you can visit: <http://wageproject.salary.com>. Please note there is no "www" prefacing the address.

START SMART Fall Schedule

Location	Date	Time/Length
Boston University	10/2	6:00 to 8:00 PM
Boston College	10/3	6:00-9:00 PM
Fletcher School/Tufts	10/8	6:00 to 8:00 PM
Boston University	10/16	6:00 to 8:00 PM
Babson College	10/17	3 hrs. (Time TBD)
Regis College	10/23	6:00 to 8:00 PM
Howard CC (MD)	10/27	11:00 AM to 1:00PM
Fletcher School/Tufts	10/29	6:00 to 8:00 PM
Univ. of Southern ME	10/30	(Time TBD)
Regis College	11/5	6:00 to 8:00 PM
UMass/Dartmouth	11/6	6:00 to 8:00 PM
University of Maine	11/7	6:00 to 8:00 PM
University of PA	11/12	5-8 PM or 4-7 PM
Univ. of Southern ME	11/13	(Time TBD)
University of Maine	11/14	6:00 to 8:00 PM
Bentley College	11/14	6:30 to 9:30 PM
UMass/Dartmouth	11/19	6:00 to 8:00 PM

Please contact Annie Houle with any questions at ahoule@wageproject.org.

Unsung Heroines Call for Nominations



On May 14th, 2008 the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women (MCSW) will host its Fifth Annual Unsung Heroine Celebration at the Massachusetts State House. This event will honor 351 Unsung Heroines – one from every city and town in the Commonwealth. Our Unsung Heroines are women who quietly, without fanfare or recognition, make their communities and the Commonwealth better places. *Our Unsung Heroines don't make the news, but they truly make a difference!*

The Commission is asking the public to help identify women from every community who perform unheralded acts on a daily basis that make our neighborhoods, our cities and our towns better places to live. We are seeking women of all ages, all economic, political and ethnic backgrounds so please consider everyone from the neighborhood babysitter to the high school guidance counselor, the local parish leader to a youth mentor.

Any individual may nominate one or more Massachusetts' women to be considered for selection as an Unsung Heroine. After carefully reviewing all of the nominations received, a selection committee will then choose one Unsung Heroine from each city and town. All 2008 Unsung Heroine awardees will be contacted and invited to attend a ceremony in their honor at the Massachusetts Statehouse on May 14, 2008.

Nomination forms are available for download on the MCSW website at www.mass.gov/women. You can also contact Kim Sebastiao, Program Coordinator, at Kimberly.Sebastiao@state.ma.us or 617-626-6521 for more information. **Please note the deadline for nominations is January 14, 2008.**

We encourage you to download the nomination form from our website and forward it to your friends and colleagues via email to assist us in reaching out to every corner of the state and to ensure that we have representation from every community in the Commonwealth.

MA Women's Resource & Referral Network Seeks New Providers

The MCSW is looking to augment and enhance its award-winning online resource and referral tool. Service-based organizations of all types from across the state are encouraged to visit www.mcswnetwork.com and join the network as a "provider". **Adding your organization is easy!** Just visit www.mcswnetwork.com and click on the Register a Provider link on the left. From there it's as simple as filling in your organization name, mission and contact information and submitting it to the MWRRN administrators.

Once added and approved, your organization will be a part of a network of thousands of credible organizations that is easily accessed and searched by hundreds of people every month. The MWRRN serves as direct link between Massachusetts women seeking services in their area to your organization.

If your organization is already a part of the MWRRN, please consider uploading the new MWRRN logo (see below) to your website with a link to www.mcswnetwork.com. This will help spread the word about this useful tool and assist us in growing this already plentiful resource.

Massachusetts Women's



mcswnetwork.com

Brought to you by the
Massachusetts Commission on
the Status of Women

Program Coordinator Kim Sebastiao can assist any organizations wishing to feature the MWRRN logo and link on its website by providing the appropriate HTML code. Template press releases are also available for use by member organizations to send to their local media announcing their involvement in this expansive network.

Any questions regarding the MWRRN can be directed to Kim at 617-626-6521 or Kimberly.Sebastiao@state.ma.us.

Take Action. Get Educated. Get Involved.

If you are interested in becoming more involved in the movement to advance women in the Commonwealth you can start by attending any one of the number of events and meetings taking place across the state in the coming weeks.

Tuesday, October 2 (11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.): Bill Hearing for S737

Location: State House, Room A-2 (Boston)

Details: An Act relative to establishing a campus rape and sexual assault prevention advisory council. See the Legislative Corner on page 2 for more information.

Tuesday, October 2 (5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.): “Why Do They Kill?: Men Who Murder Their Intimate Partners

Location: Mintz Levin Law Office (1 Financial Center, Boston)

Details: This event will celebrate the release of licensed psychologist David Adams’ book “Why Do They Kill?...” Adams is also the co-founder and co-director of Emerge, the first counseling program in the nation for men who abused women.

Wednesday, October 3 (10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.): Bill Hearing for S114

Location: State House, Room Gardner Auditorium (Boston)

Details: An Act supporting strong families by providing paid family and medical leave, increasing tax deductions, and establishing a work-family council. See the Legislative Corner on page 2 for more information.

Thursday, October 4 (7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.): 12th Annual Today's Girls...Tomorrow's Leaders (United Way) Women's Leadership Breakfast

Location: The Westin Copley Plaza (10 Huntington Avenue, Boston)

Details: Keynote Speaker, First Lady Diane Patrick. For more information about women's leadership events, please contact Mahua Dasgupta at mdasgupta@supportunitedway.org, or call 617.624.8239.

Thursday, October 11 (5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.): Take Back Our Lives - Rally Against Family Violence

Location: Energy Park, Greenfield

Details: Hosted by New England Learning Center for Women in Transition. Music, food and children's activities.

Monday, October 15 (3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.): Massachusetts Coalition for Women's Wage Equality Meeting

Location: Charles F. Hurley Building, Room 307C (19 Staniford Street, Boston)

Details: Members of the MA Coalition for Women's Wage Equality will meet to discuss next steps in passing wage equity-related legislation and hosting pay equity events. Anyone interested in joining this growing Coalition should contact MCSW Outreach Coordinator Jill Ashton at 617-626-6525 or jill.ashton@state.ma.us.

Wednesday, October 24 (7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.) Bullying & Cyber Bullying

Location: John Glenn Middle School (12 McMahon Road, Bedford)

Details: Speaker Elizabeth Englander, Founder of the MA Aggression Reduction Center at Bridgewater State College will discuss the warning signs of bullying and cyber bullying and tell you how you can help prevent it from happening to your child.

Thursday, October 25 (6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.): Women's Sexual Health Public Forum

Location: Worcester Main Public Library, Saxe Room (3 Salem Square, Worcester)

Details: Presented by the City Manager's Advisory Committee on the Status of Women this public forum will include speakers, information tables and refreshments. Featured topics include: HPV -- The First Vaccine Against Cancer, HIV -- Know Your Status, Empower Yourself; and Sexual Violence: Where to Turn when the Unexpected Happens.

Saturday, October 27 (8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.): The Money Conference for Women

Location: DCU Center (Worcester, MA)

Details: Treasurer Tim Cahill's Financial Education Division, in conjunction with the YWCA, invite you to attend this FREE conference. The Conference will focus on money management, life after college, retirement and so much more. Attendees receive breakfast, lunch and a copy of Keynote Speaker, Dee Lee's book. For more details please visit: www.themoneyconference.com.

Tuesday, October 30 (10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.): Women's Health and Safety Lobby Day

Location: State House (Boston)

Details: Lobby Massachusetts legislators in support of the Comprehensive Health Education Bill, the Buffer Zones Bill, and the Public Health Protection Act.

Commission Officers & Members

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Gloria Coney, Vice Chair, Roxbury

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Roseanna Means, MD, Wellesley

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